

Message Text

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ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 PA-01 INR-01 INRE-00 /005 W

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O R 190950Z MAY 74 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6162

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 6946

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IOP/FW

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK, HONG KONG AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE FOR S/PRS AND EA/P

SECDEF FOR OASD/PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: KHMER SITUATIONER

1. GOVERNMENT FORCES ON ROUTE 5 NORTH OF PHNOM PENH MADE A BIT MORE PROGRESS SATURDAY IN THEIR DRIVE TOWARDS LOVEK. NAVAL UNITS WERE ATTEMPTING TO DISMANTLE THE BARRICADES ACROSS THE TONLE SAP RIVER AS THEY CAME UNDER COMMUNIST FIRE FROM THE EAST BANK. ROUTE 5 IS NOW OPEN TO MILITARY TRAFFIC TO A POINT 4 KILOMETERS NORTH OF KRUOS. IN FIGHTING SATURDAY ON ROUTE 5, SIX COMMUNIST SOLDIERS WERE KILLED WHILE FANK LOSSES WERE LIGHT.

2. MEANWHILE AT LOVEK TO THE NORTH, FANK REPULSED TWO COMMUNIST GROUND ATTACKS SATURDAY AGAINST THE EASTERN AND SOUTHEASTERN PERIMETERS WITH NO GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES. COMMUNIST ATTEMPTS LATER THAT NIGHT TO INFILTRATE THE NORTHERN AND NORTHEASTERN PERIMETERS WERE MET WITH A UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTER-ATTACK AND THROWN BACK BY THE ALERTED GOVERNMENT

DEFENDERS.

3. COMMUNIST PRESSURE AGAINST THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF PREY VENG CONTINUED SATURDAY WITH NUMEROUS SHELLINGS AND GROUND ATTACKS. 18 COMMUNIST SOLDIERS WERE KILLED IN A FANK-INITIATED OPERATION TO THE NORTH OF PREY VENG WITH THE GOVERNMENT LOSING TWO KILLED AND SEVEN WOUNDED. ON THE 17TH, 19 REFUGEE FAMILIES TOTALLING 73 PEOPLE VOLUNTARILY RETURNED TO GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

4. 18 COMMUNIST SOLDIERS WERE REPORTED KILLED NORTH OF PURSAT ON ROUTE 5 ON THE 17TH IN A FANK CLEARING OPERATION. THE GOVERNMENT TROOPS ALSO CAPTURED 15 COMMUNIST WEAPONS. ELSEWHERE IN THE REPUBLIC, MINOR COMMUNIST GROUND ATTACKS WERE REPORTED AT TAKEO; KAMPOT, KOH KONG, DAS KONCHOR AND KOMPONG SEILA ON ROUTE 4 WITH GOVERNMENT FORCES REPELLING ALL ASSAULTS WITH VERY LIGHT CASUALTIES. THE SITUATION WAS QUIETER AT KOMPONG THOM WITH MINOR ATTACKS BY FIRE ON THE NORTHERN PERIMETER CAUSING NO GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES. THE PHNOM PENH AREA WAS ALSO QUIET; ONLY A HAND GRENADE INCIDENT SATURDAY NIGHT NEAR THE MONIVONG BRIDGE IN WHICH A CIVILIAN WAS WOUNDED DISTURBED THE GENERAL CALM.

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